

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2740

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SREF, GW

SUBJECT: RESETTLEMENT OF INDOCHINESE REFUGEES

REF: STATE 241760, BONN 16898

1. ON OCT 27 WE DISCUSSED THE INDOCHINESE REFUGEE PROBLEM
WITH STAATSSEKRETAER BRODESSER IN THE INTERIOR MINISTRY OF
NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA (NRW). HE SAID THAT THE COUNCIL OF
INTERIOR MINISTERS OF THE BUNDESLAENDER HAD DECIDED AT ITS
SEP MEETING TO STUDY THE POSSIBILITY OF ACCEPTING UP TO 3000
REFUGEES FROM INDOCHINA. A COMMITTEE WITH REPRESENTATIVES
FROM BAVARIA, BERLIN, HESSEN AND NRW HAD BEEN SET UP TO WORK
OUT THE DETAILS. IT WAS AGREED THAT NRW WOULD TAKE A QUOTA
OF 315 OUT OF EACH 1000 REFUGEES ACCEPTED BY THE FRG.
BRODESSER WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO GIVE THE TOTAL NUMBER OF
REFUGEES WHO WOULD BE ACCEPTED BUT CONFIRMED THAT AN
INITIAL TRANCHE OF 1000 HAD BEEN SET. HE INDICATED THAT
NRW INTENDED TO INCLUDE IN ITS QUOTA THE REFUGEES THAT HAVE
ALREADY ARRIVED IN NRW. ACCORDING TO BRODESSER THE NUMBER
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OF REFUGEES TO BE ACCEPTED WILL BE SET IN MID-NOVEMBER AND

FORMALIZED AT THE DEC 5 MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF INTERIOR
MINISTERS.

2. BRODESSER ASKED US WHO WOULD DECIDE WHICH REFUGEES WENT
TO GERMANY AND ON WHAT CRITERIA SUCH DECISIONS WOULD BE
BASED. WE AGREED TO SEEK INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT AND
PASS IT ON TO THE INTERIOR MINISTRY.

3. BRODESSER NOTED THAT THE INTERIOR MINISTRY IS ONLY
RESPONSIBLE FOR LETTING REFUGEES CROSS THE BORDER. HOUSING,
EMPLOYMENT AND INTEGRATION INTO GERMAN SOCIETY ARE MATTERS
FOR THE LABOR AND SOCIAL MINISTRIES. HE RECOMMENDED THAT
WE CONSULT WITH THESE MINISTRIES AND IMPRESS ON THEM ALSO THE
URGENCY THAT THE US GOVERNMENT ATTACHES TO THIS PROBLEM.

4. WITH REGARD TO INDOCHINESE REFUGEES NOW BEING PROCESSED
IN NRW BRODESSER SAID THAT BECAUSE OF RELATIVELY STRICT
INTERPRETATION OF THE REGULATIONS ONLY 60 OF 160 APPLICATIONS
HAD BEEN APPROVED. HE INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT WHEN THE
DECISION TO ACCEPT LARGE NUMBERS OF REFUGEES IS FORMALLY TAKEN,
THE APPLICATION OF THESE REGULATIONS WOULD BE RELAXED ON
THE GROUNDS THAT A REFUGEE WITH EVEN TENUOUS TIES TO SOMEONE
IN GERMANY IS MORE LIKELY TO BE SETTLED SUCCESSFULLY THAN
SOMEONE WITH NO TIES AT ALL.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: CONGEN WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS RAISED IN PARA 2.DUX

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